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United States Patent [19]

Owens et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,530,865**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 25, 1996**[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
IMPROVED APPLICATION PROGRAM
SWITCHING ON A
COMPUTER-CONTROLLED DISPLAY
SYSTEM**[75] Inventors: **David H. Owens**, Los Altos; **Stephen Fisher**, Menlo Park, both of Calif.[73] Assignee: **Apple Computer, Inc.**, Cupertino, Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **26,322**[22] Filed: **Mar. 3, 1993**[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 3/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/700; 395/155; 364/929;**
364/DIG. 2[58] **Field of Search** 395/600, 425,
395/153, 155, 157, 158, 159, 700[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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[57]

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for transferring control between application programs. A messaging means is provided which allows a first application program to indicate to the messaging means that a second application program should assume control. The messaging means receives the message and performs an orderly shutdown of the first application program and messages the second application program that it should commence operation. Upon valid and proper operation of the second application program, the first application program is caused to be suspended, and the second application program is invoked.

3 Claims, 58 Drawing Sheets